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value as illustrating the great pest of textual critics, the fact that the author himself is often responsible for variations and again responsible for causing other manuscripts to have a part of their readings corrected by this variant text. The object of text criticism is not always, therefore, the original text. If manuscripts were never "corrected," the task of the text critic would be a science clean-cut, definite, and final, instead of as now an art painful and inconclusive.

The essay is capital work, and it is not a surprise to find, coming as it does from the well-equipped seminary of church history in Munich, that the work was undertaken at the instigation and carried on with the kind coöperation of Dr. Weyman.

This essay is the earnest that the future text will be grounded in a completely scientific method, and the text itself will be looked for with great interest.

ERNEST C. RICHARDSON.

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THE AMHERST PAPYRI. Being an Account of the Greek Papyri in the Collection of the Right Hon. Lord Amherst of Hackney, F.S.A., at Didlington Hall, Norfolk. By BERNARD P. GRENFELL AND ARTHUR S. HUNT. Part I: *The Ascension of Isaiah, and Other Theological Fragments*. With nine Plates. London: Frowde, 1900. Pp. 48. 15s., net.

THE editors of this new volume of Greek papyri are known to the theological world chiefly through their discovery of the Logia fragment at Oxyrhynchus in 1896-7. Their subsequent excavations have been hardly less successful, and the rapidity and accuracy with which they edit the papyri they unearth are the astonishment of all workers in their field.

The papyri here published are not the trophies of the editors' excavations, however. They were obtained by purchases made by Messrs. Grenfell and Hunt for Lord Amherst, whose collection of Greek papyri is said to be the most important private collection yet made. The classical texts found in it are reserved for a second volume, and the present volume is devoted wholly to theological pieces. The first and most important of these is a considerable fragment of what is probably the original Greek of the Ascension of Isaiah. For the complete form of this early Jewish and Christian apocryph we are dependent upon the Ethiopic, while Latin and Slavonic versions of parts of it and a very late and free Greek recension of it exist. The recovery of one-sixth

of the early Greek form of the Ascension in a papyrus of the fifth or sixth century thus promises to help much toward the solution of some of its textual problems. Messrs. Grenfell and Hunt devote half of their volume to the Ascension, printing an introduction, the text, a translation, and a commentary, and then reproducing the whole manuscript in a series of seven beautiful facsimiles.

The second papyrus of the book is, from a different point of view, quite as interesting as the first. It is an early Christian hymn, resembling in form the "*Ad Virgines Exhortatio*" of Gregory of Nazianzos, with which the editors are disposed to connect it in date. In structure the hymn is peculiar, being at once alphabetic, metrical, and to some extent accentual, and thus belongs to the transition period between metrical and accentual verse. The third papyrus, a Christian letter written from Rome about 250–85 A. D., is the earliest in the volume, which thus consists almost entirely of pieces from the Byzantine period. The same papyrus preserves the Greek of Heb. 1:1, and of Gen. 1:1–5 in the versions of the Septuagint and of Aquila.

With the exception of two seventh- or eighth-century liturgical papyri, used, the editors suggest, as choir slips, the remaining pieces of the volume are from the Greek Bible, Job, chaps. 1 and 2; Pss. 5, 58, 59, 108, 118, 135, 138–140; and Acts, chap. 2, being represented. Of the biblical pieces the earliest is the one preserving Heb. 1:1 and Gen. 1:1–5, which was written about 300 A. D. The rest are of the fifth and seventh centuries. The largest papyrus is the one containing Pss. 108, 118, 135, 138–140. In form all the pieces in the volume, except the hymn, the letter, and the choir slips, are leaf books, not rolls. The fragments of Pss. 58, 59, and Acts, chap. 2, are on parchment.

It will be seen that the Oxford editors have made a considerable and varied contribution to textual apparatus as well as to early Christian literature. The whole is done with that especial concern for the reader's convenience which distinguishes the editions of Messrs. Grenfell and Hunt. Full introductions, intelligible transcriptions, critical notes, occasional translations, and complete indices give all the help the student of these texts could ask. As the indices refer to the papyri by number, and a single papyrus sometimes covers a score or more of pages, the search for references in this, as in other volumes by the same editors, would be much facilitated by printing at the top of every page the number of the papyrus under discussion.

One observes with some surprise that the editors print Ἱερουσαλήμ, preserving the traditional rough breathing against the distinguished authority of Dr. Hort. In the hymn, χολῶν makes a tempting restoration after τὰ δὲ σκιρτήματα [—], l. 19, despite its accentual unfit-ness. In l. 15, p. 31, κς seems a misprint for κ4 = καί.

In nothing is American scholarship so unfortunate as in its lack of manuscript material. In the case of Greek papyri this lack is most conspicuous. If there are Greek papyri owned in America, their pos-sessors have not brought them to the attention of students of manu-scripts, and their possible contributions to literature and history are as yet unmade. But it is safe to say that there are none, or next to none, and one longs for the time when American travelers and collectors will see and seize the opportunity, suggested by the Lord Amherst volume, of doing a novel and patriotic service to American scholar-ship by placing within its reach some of the papyrus treasures now being distributed by the dealers of Cairo.

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AUS DEN GRIECHISCHEN PAPYRUSURKUNDEN. Ein Vortrag. Von LUDWIG MITTEIS. Leipzig: Teubner, 1900. Pp. 50. M. 1.

AS WAS to be expected of the author of *Reichsrecht und Volksrecht*, the interests of Mitteis are chiefly with those papyri which throw light upon matters of ancient administration and law, and in this brief address he deals, for the most part, with themes like the imperial four-teen-year census cycle, the fifteen-year indiction period, the application of the Augustan corrected calendar to Egypt, where the current civil year was uniformly six hours short, Greek and Roman law in Egypt, and espe-cially the system of land tenure. On these matters the author's views will be heard with respect by all papyrographers. Nothing like a cata-logue of published papyri, either literary or documentary, is here under-taken, nor are any continuous texts presented. Passing reference is, indeed, made by way of introduction to some of the most conspicuous literary finds of recent years, *e. g.*, the Oxyrhynchus Logia and the Coptic Acts of Paul. The presence of the latter in an address professedly con-cerned with Greek papyri may occasion surprise, the more especially as no hint of their Coptic character is given, and the uninitiated reader is left to suppose them Greek. As to the Logia, by a singular perversion, the position of Messrs. Grenfell and Hunt as to their origin has been identified with that of Harnack, as against that of Heinrici